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**Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
- Expedited Examining Procedure -
Examining Group 1772**

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Customer No. 01333

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Thomas M. Laney, et al

**STACKED MICROVOIDED LIGHT
DIFFUSER**

Serial No. 10/020,404

Filed 14 December 2001

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

Sir:

Group Art Unit: 1772

Examiner: Marc A. Patterson

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited today with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to
Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Deidra L. Mack
Deidra L. Mack

May 25, 2004
Date

DECLARATION UNDER RULE 132

The undersigned, Cheryl J. Brickey (nee Kaminsky), declares that:
She has received the degree of B.S. in Chemical Engineering from
Carnegie Mellon University;

She has been employed as a research scientist with Eastman Kodak
Company since August 2000;

She is an inventor in the above-captioned patent application;

She has reviewed the outstanding Office Action and any applicable
cited references;

She has prepared samples of the invention and tested these and a
sample of a reflective polarizer as follows. A sample of the invention, a comparison
reflective polarizer, and an absorptive polarizer were hand-delivered to the Examiner

for discussion during a telephone interview and it is requested that the Examiner put these samples with this declaration in the USPTO file.

Comparison Example vs a Sample for this Application (Example 4)

A transparent amorphous film composed of three layers having an overall width of 16 cm was manufactured by a co-extrusion process. One of the outer layers, hereafter referred to as layer (A), was composed of poly(ethylene terephthalate) ("PET", commercially available from Eastman Chemical Company as Eastapak #7352). The intrinsic viscosity (I.V.) of the PET 7352 resin was 0.74. This layer was approximately 245 μm in thickness. The center layer, hereafter referred to as layer (B), was composed of PET (commercially available from Eastman Chemical Company as Eastapak #9921) impregnated with a particulate voiding agent. The intrinsic viscosity (I.V.) of the PET 9921 resin was 0.80. This layer was approximately 30 μm in thickness. The remaining outer layer, hereafter referred to as layer (C), was composed of PET 9921 and impregnated with a particulate voiding agent of a different size than the voiding agent in layer (B). This layer was approximately 48 μm in thickness. All voided layers in each example were impregnated with approximately the same concentration of void initiating beads and thus have approximately the same frequency of voids.

The particulate voiding agents were created as follows. A 27 mm twin screw compounding extruder heated to 275°C was used to mix polystyrene beads cross-linked with divinylbenzene with PET 9921. The beads used for layer (B) had an average particle diameter of 2 μm . The beads used for layer (C) had an average particle diameter of 5 μm . The beads were added to attain a 20% by weight loading in the PET 9921 matrix. The components were metered into the compounder and one pass was sufficient for dispersion of the beads into the polyester matrix. The different size beads were compounded in two separate batches. The compounded material was extruded through a strand die, cooled in a water bath, and pelletized.

Prior to the film co-extrusion process, the PET 7352 resin and the compounded pellets were dried separately in desiccated driers at 150°C for 12

hours. The cast sheet was co-extruded in an A/B/C layer structure. A standard 3.18 cm diameter screw extruder was used to extrude the PET 7352 resin for layer (A). A standard 1.91 cm diameter screw extruder was used to extrude the compounded pellets for layer (B). A standard 3.18 cm diameter screw extruder was used to extrude the compounded pellets for layer (C). The 275°C melt streams were fed into a 7 inch multi-manifold die also heated at 275°C. As the extruded sheet emerged from the die, it was cast onto a quenching roll set at 60 - 70°C.

The amorphous cast sheet was cut into 13 cm x 13 cm squares. The sheet was then stretched simultaneously in the X and Y-directions using a standard laboratory film-stretching unit. The cast sheet was stretched symmetrically in the X and Y-directions to an extent of approximately 3.5 times the original sheet dimensions. The sheet temperature during stretching was 103°C. The processing conditions are shown in the table below.

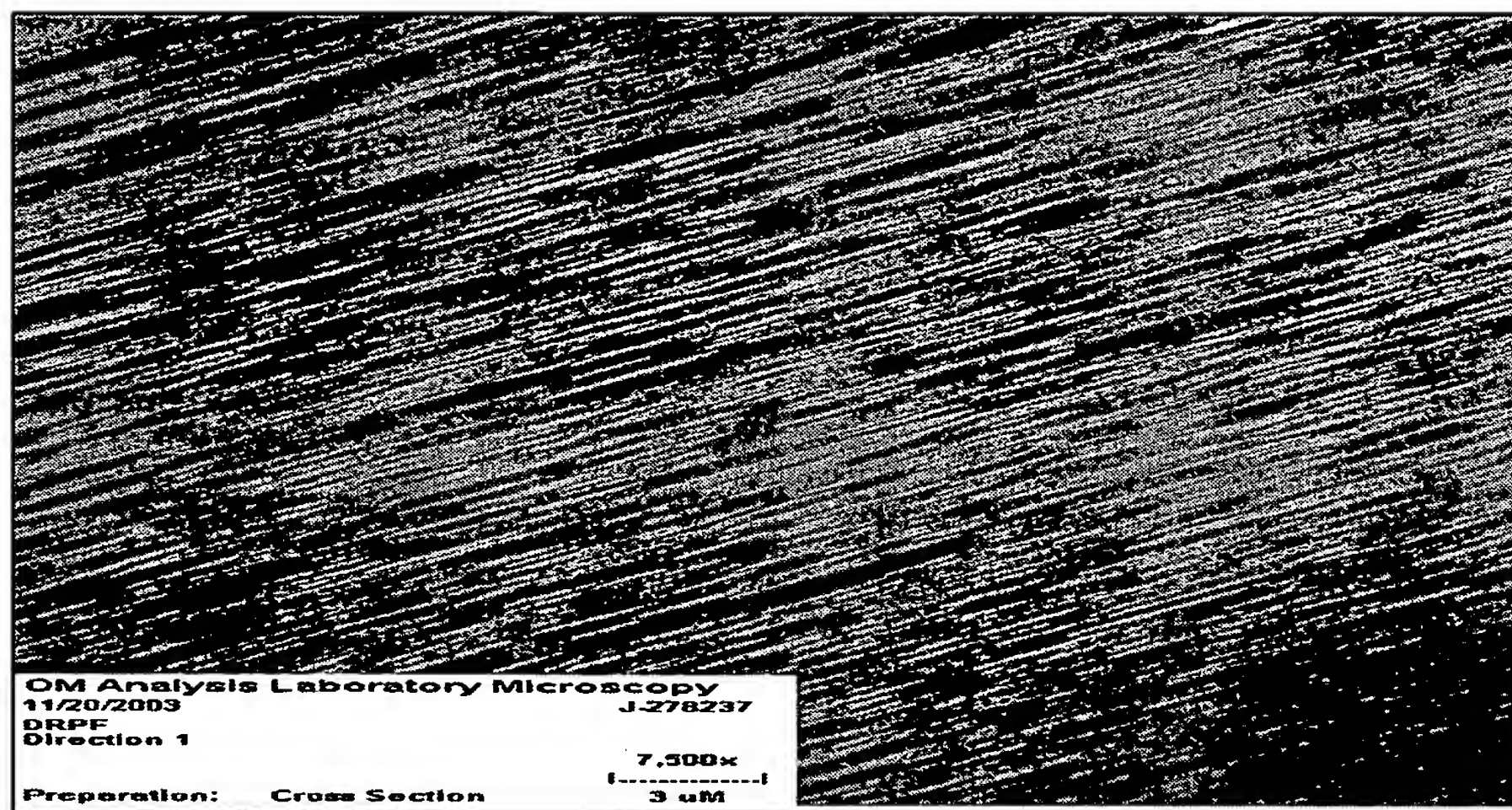
| | |
|---|------|
| Example Number | 4 |
| | Inv |
| Cast Layer (A) Thickness (micron) | 245 |
| Cast Layer (B) Thickness (micron) | 30 |
| Cast Layer (C) Thickness (micron) | 48 |
| Average Bead Size in Layer B (micron) | 2 |
| Average Bead Size in Layer C (micron) | 5 |
| Approximate Symmetric Stretching Extent | 3.5X |
| Stretching Temperature (degree C) | 103 |
| Stretched Layer (A) Thickness (micron) | 20 |
| Stretched Layer (B) Thickness (micron) | 2 |
| Stretched Layer (C) Thickness (micron) | 4 |
| Percent Total Transmission at 500 nm | 72.4 |
| Percent Diffuse Transmission at 500 nm | 70.8 |
| Percent Spectral Transmission at 500 nm | 1.7 |
| Percent Diffuse Reflection at 500 nm | 30.9 |

Reflective Polarizer Comparison Sample (US 6,057,961 (Allen et al.) and US 5,825,543 (Ouderkirk et al.))

The comparison example is a reflective polarizer, DRPF (Diffuse Reflective Polarizing Film) commercially available from 3M. This film was made

according to US patents 6,057,961 and 5,825,543. The sample is a mixture of polyethylene naphthalate (PEN) and syndiotactic polystyrene (sPS). The PEN and the sPS are mixed together in an extruder, extruded onto a casting wheel to produce a flat sheet, and cooled. The film is then heated again and stretched uniaxially.

A TEM (transmission electron microscope) image of the cross-section of the film is below. The continuous phase and the discontinuous phase shown are polymeric.



LCD-Grade Absorptive Polarizer

This is a typical absorptive polarizer from a liquid crystal display. It is formed of 2 pieces of cellulose triacetate sandwiching a layer of stretched PVA stained with iodine. It is not an example but may be used to observe the lack of light transmission through the comparison reflective polarizer. The enclosed absorptive polarizer allows for approximately 100% the desired polarization of light through the film but absorbs approximately 100% of the orthogonally polarized light, resulting in a net of 50% transmission. When it is placed with the Reflective Polarizer Comparison Sample and rotated, it is clear that only 50% of the light is passed because the light transmission is virtually nil at the proper orientation, each polarizer absorbing 50% of the incident light..

Comparison Optical Data of Examples

| | Sample for This Applicaton | Reflective Polarizer Comparison Sample |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Percent Total Transmission | 72.4 | 48.3 |
| Percent Diffuse Transmission | 70.8 | 19.0 |
| Percent Diffuse Transmission Efficiency | 97.8 | 39.3 |

Percent diffuse transmission efficiency is the percent diffuse transmission divided by the percent total transmission times 100.

The resulting data demonstrates that the diffuse light transmission and the total light transmission of the reflective polarizers of the cited art are far below that of the inventive comparisons. I would not expect a polarizer to have a total transmission beyond 50% in view of its intended function to prevent passage of the light that is wrongly polarized which is half the light.

The undersigned declares further that all statements made herein of the undersigned's own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true. These statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.


Cheryl J. Brickey

Date: 5/24/04

Enclosures: Sample of Invention
Sample of Reflective Polarizer
Sample of Absorptive Polarizer